

The Perfin of Hawaii

T.H.

Catalog: T-49

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On July 6th, 1931, the Government of the Territory of Hawaii, processed the necessary paper-work to authorize the purchase and use of a Cummins Perforating Machine. This was during the tenure of office of Governor Judd, and the machine was to be used by the Department of the Bureau of the Budget. The machine, designed to perforate the initials 'T.H.', was for the purpose of perforating all adhesive postage used in the various departments of the Government, to help discourage the private use of those stamps.

The use of the perforated initials in stamps, continued through the next 23 years until the year 1954, when the then Governor King rescinded the order covering the use of the perforating machine, to allow the use of Postage Meter machines.

At the time of recapping the information herein contained (1954) the following conditions existed in various departments of the government:

1. Many departments of the Government were using Postage Meters.
2. Three (3) departments still used the perforated initials 'T.H.'
3. Some departments of the Government were using regularly issued postage stamps, not marked in any way.

Following an almost standard pattern, no records were kept to indicate the issues which were perforated and used throughout the years, therefore, the number of issues involved, or put into use with the perforated initials from 1931 through 1954, can only be estimated by reasoning that:

1. Positive proof of issues perforated, can be substantiated by copies of each issue, bearing the initials and as collected or as seen by Collectors.
2. The use of postage issues circulated throughout the 23 year use of the perforating machine, that were possibly used but have not been found, up to this date.

To estimate the number of varieties of United States stamps perforated 'T.H.' in the 23 year period, it is necessary, then, to consider the issues on the basis of the "Likely" and the "Unlikely".

"Likely" (a) The issues still in stock in the Post Offices, or on hand

in the various departments of the Government, when the perforating machine was ordered.

- (b) Regular definitive issues of stamps from 1931.
- (c) All types and sizes of the Commemorative issues.
- (d) Airmail issues. Inter-Island air service was inaugurated October 8th, 1934 and Trans-Pacific service, on November 25th, 1935.
- (e) Special Delivery issues, although only one has been found.

"Unlikely"(a) Postal issues never placed on sale in the Territory, such as: Souvenir sheets, Farley Follies, Coil wastes, Misc. Imperfs and Postage Dues.
(b) Odd values such as the Presidential 21 and 22 cent values.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF VALUES INVOLVED:

KNOWN:	Regular issues and Commemoratives.....	110	
	Airmails.....	7	
	Coils (pair)	1	
			118
POSSIBLE:	Regular issues and commemoratives.....	206	
	Airmails.....	20	
	Special Delivery issues.....	6	
			232

In the period from 1954 up to the present, relatively few issues have been seen perforated with the initials 'T.H.'. As only a few of the departments of the Government have continued their use, it is easy to understand the scarcity of many values. Previously with all departments using them and buying their supplies of postage stamps at different times, the variety of values and kinds was greater.

Since 1954 very few values have been seen, namely they are:

- 12 Definitives
- 3 commemoratives
- 2 airmails

This does not mean that others may not have been used.

Perforated initials have been found as late as December 12th, 1960, indicating their use AFTER Hawaii became a State in March of 1959.

This article was especially written for the May 1961 issue of the PERMINS BULLETIN by E. M. Pickop, 4815 Matsonia Drive, Honolulu 16, Hawaii. Any members having additional information on this subject, or who have questions they would like to ask, please address Mr. Pickop.